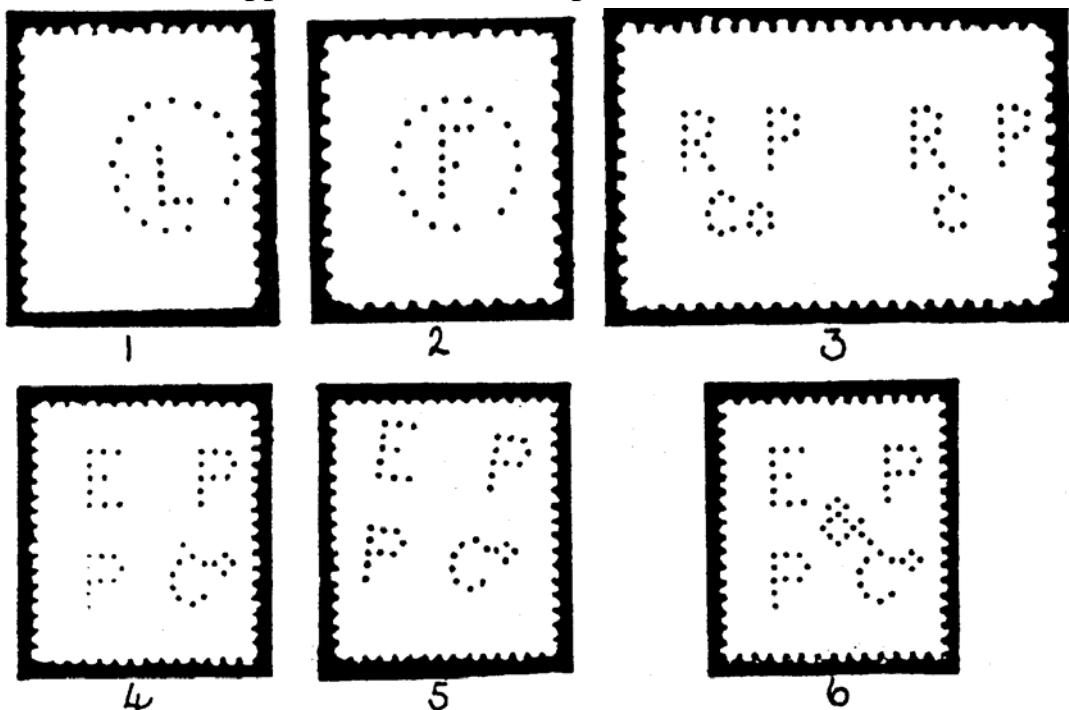


MISSING HOLES

by Jack Brandt

Pins in perforating machines often break, and when there are only a few missing the machines are often not repaired. Hence, the stamps perforated show missing holes. Interesting ones to watch for are those which appear to create a new perfin.



A US example is an apparent L in a circle (1). There are three types of L in a circle, but this is not one of them. All examples I have seen are pre-cancelled PIQUA, OHIO, and this helped me to identify it. Some years ago the Perfins Club (US) published a list of pre-cancelled perfins, in order of state and city of the pre-cancel. So, I checked Piqua and found only two types, one of which was an F in a circle. Checking this one (2), I found the L was actually an F, with two missing holes.

Another US example is the RP/Co perfin (3). In this case there is no problem in identification since they are both on one stamp and the change is the letter 'o' is missing, creating the perfin RP/C. I have the RP/C also on a small stamp, on an early issue, and it makes me wonder if the 'o' was missing right from the beginning.

A great Britain example showed up when I got an EP/PCo perfin (4) with an extra hole over the C. Except for this hole it is the same as the McKee-Tomkins #357 (5). At first I thought this extra hole might be a code hole, but later I thought to try it on the EP/&/PCo (#358 [6]) and it fitted perfectly, with the extra hole being the bottom right hole of the ampersand. So, there appear to be three states. First, the EP/&/PCo, which I have on issues from the 1d lilac to Edward VII issues. Then the one with the only one hole left of the & on Edward VII issues. That leaves the one with only one hole left of the & on Edward VII and George V (Gibbons #341). The EP/PCo state I have on George V issues or the 1912-22 set. Thus it would appear that about 1911 the & pins were all removed except one. This may have been a break, or may have been intentional. Then, probably a year later, someone noticed one of the 4 pins was left, and it was then removed. Does anyone know the user of this perfin and any history of the company? My cancels are all from London. Some of the Victorian issues have the newspaper pre-cancel cancel.